

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2016 Grazing Season (3/01/2016-2/28/2017)

Williams Ranger District Kaibab National Forest

Hat Allotment



Agreed To By: Joseph A. Auza
Joseph A. Auza Jr. & Tammy D. Auza,
Joseph A. Auza Sheep Co. L.L.C., *Permittees*

Date: 4/12/2016

Approved By: Danelle D. Harrison
Danelle D. Harrison, *District Ranger*

Date: 4/12/2016



2016 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

Allotment: Hat Allotment

Permittee: Joseph A. Auza Sheep Co. L.L.C.

Permit Number: 07-876

Permitted Use:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Joe A. Auza Sheep Company Co. L.L.C.	4,160 Sheep/Ewes	Term	05/01-10/31
Joe A. Auza Sheep Company Co. L.L.C.	140 Rams	Term	06/01-07/15

1. **Authorization:** Authorized to graze the following in 2016:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Joe A. Auza Sheep Company Co. L.L.C.	4,160 Sheep/Ewes	Term	05/01-10/31
Joe A. Auza Sheep Company Co. L.L.C.	140 Rams	Term	06/01-07/15

Counting Livestock: The standard for counting livestock on an allotment is as follows:

- a. All sheep six (6) months of age or older **at the time of entering** the National Forest **and all weaned** animals regardless of age will be counted against the permitted numbers on the allotment and charged for at the current rate.

Nonuse: Application for credit or refund must be made in “**writing**” and “**in advance**” by the permittee to the District Ranger using Form FS-2200-1 (Refund, Credit, or Transfer Application). When it is not possible to be timely in getting to the Ranger District Office, the permittee may phone in a request for refund or credit. The permittee will then complete Form FS-2200-1 (Refund, Credit, or Transfer Application) at the next visit to the Williams Ranger District Office. **Note:** Credit or refund applications will not be processed unless value is \$100.00 or more and District Range personnel have been notified either in advance or at the time livestock are removed from NFS Lands.

2. **Management:** Hat 2016 Pasture Rotation:

This year the sheep will begin grazing on the far west side of the allotment (concentrating in the lower elevation portions), in order to utilize Japanese brome (a non-native, exotic grass species). This non-native, invasive annual grass is found primarily along Forest Roads 35, 27, and 6, with scattered populations elsewhere.

The highest priority pastures are: 13 Mile, Perrin (Perrin East, West, North, and South), and the House Pasture. Current research on Japanese brome indicates that grazing in May and

June may significantly reduce seed production and can serve as an effective treatment method. The idea being that grazing prevents this annual grass from going to seed, thereby helping to contain the population.

Place the sheep in those pastures first, dividing the sheep up however you wish (i.e. 1-4 bands). Remain in these areas until forage utilization on the brome nears 50% and then move south into the Meath Trap, North and South Winter pastures.

Once forage utilization nears 40% in Meath Trap, North and South Winter pastures, move the sheep into the higher elevation areas of the allotment. Split the herd into 1-3 bands so they can rotate through those pastures without exceeding the 40% utilization.

Sheep will be placed in the following traps (Rabbit Bill Trap, Trap Tank Trap, Barney Flat / Lockett Trap, and 36 Tank Trap) during the time of shipping on and off the allotment and for hospital use.

All sheep are to be actively herded through the grazing units, and are not allowed to bed in the same area for more than 3 days in a row.

At no time are sheep permitted to water or graze within the Coleman Lake enclosure.

Please notify us of sheep movements onto and off of the allotments, as well as refinements that may be needed to enhance the management system. If you identify the need to differ from this management system by more than 14 days, please contact District Range personnel at least two weeks in advance so that we have time to conduct monitoring and assess your request.

3. Utilization Standards and Monitoring:

In accordance with the Decision Memo signed on September 10, 2010, the allowable use level set for the Hat Allotment will be conservative use of 40%; in aspen and riparian areas a light use of 10%. Key areas will be visited to determine actual grazing use / seasonal use by livestock and wildlife. Monitoring will be conducted within two weeks before or after livestock leave a scheduled pasture. If utilization levels within portions of a scheduled pasture approach allowable use, you are required to move livestock into areas not approaching allowable use. If sheep cannot be effectively managed away from areas within the pasture that have met allowable use or if utilization objectives are met throughout the pasture prior to scheduled rotation, contact District Range personnel. Sheep will be moved into the next available pasture within the annual rotation. In the event that forage utilization objectives are met in all available pastures, livestock will be removed from the allotment. Management adjustments will be made to the following years Annual Operating Instructions to avoid recurring situations.

The following dates have been tentatively scheduled for monitoring on the allotment. You are highly encouraged and invited to participate in monitoring with District Range personnel and/or on your own.

Allotment	Monitoring date
13 Mile, Perrin East, McCauley, North / South Perrin, House Pasture, Meath, Bull Trap, North Winter, South Winter, Cow Tank Trap, Dutch Kid, T Bar Y, North / South Snyder, North / South Coleman, DT 36, and Sevier	7/18/16-7/21/16
Rabbit Bill Trap, Trap Tank Trap, Barney Flat / Lockett Trap, and 36 Tank Trap	10/25/16-10/28/16

4. Forage Growth and Water Availability:

Per Part 2, clause 8(c) of your Term Grazing Permit, if forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2016 grazing season, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary.

5. Fire

Be careful with campfires and branding fires. Pile burning is not permitted. During periods of critical fire danger, the Forest Supervisor may declare a Red Flag Alert or issue other special restrictions. Under these conditions, the building or use of fires, the use of power saws, heavy equipment, vehicles, ATV's, and other motorized equipment may be prohibited on Forest Service Land.

6. Salt and Supplement Policy

Supplemental feeding of livestock is allowed (to strategically manage livestock distribution and forage use) as follows:

- a) Place supplements on previously disturbed areas (i.e., borrow pits) or natural bedrock outcrops when possible (supplement sites).
- b) Locate supplement sites 0.25 mile or more from waters and key areas except where prior written permission has been obtained from the District Ranger.
- c) Locate supplement sites where forage is abundant and utilized less than average.
- d) Limit supplement types to non energy feeds such as salt, protein, and mineral blocks.
- e) Use products that prevent the spread of noxious weeds, only certified weed free hay may be authorized on National Forest System Lands when snow has limited the use of available forage. The same considerations for distribution will apply when feeding hay as given above when using supplements.

7. Travel Management:

The Travel Management Rule (TMR) has been implemented on the Williams Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest. Implementation of TMR will require active management of all motorized use, including that related to permitted grazing activities. Motorized travel off the designated road system by grazing permit holders should be based on need related to carrying out required management practices. Legitimate motorized use, including cross-country access, needed for conducting activities required under Term Grazing Permits will be authorized unless compelling natural and/or heritage resource issues are evident.

Any unplanned or emergency type travel not previously contemplated in the Term Grazing Permit will be discussed with appropriate authorization and guidance established in the AOI. If access is required in a motor vehicle restricted area or on a closed road, you must have special authorization in the form of an Off-Road Vehicle Permit or specific authorization through your AOI.

8. Range Improvements:

All assigned range developments identified in your Term Grazing Permit must be maintained to a functional status.

Advance planning is needed for fences when it comes to complete rebuilds and the use of heavy equipment to evaluate the need for any additional surveys. In the event that you are authorized to use heavy equipment, please follow the Heavy Equipment Policy (December 2008) before starting any work that involves soil disturbance. General maintenance/repair, such as replacing several T-posts, braces, and strands of wire is excluded. Advance planning is also needed for authorized stock tank cleaning so surveys can be scheduled accordingly. Please contact the District Range personnel in advance if you are proposing any of this type of work to inquire about the availability of materials, necessary clearances and for a permit modification.

A Forest Products Free Use Permit must be obtained in order to cut juniper fence posts and stays for use only on your Forest Service allotment. No tree cutting is allowed without a forest products permit.

Hazard trees may need to be cut to prevent them from falling on fences. However, no tree cutting may be conducted without specific written permission from the Forest Service.

Please protect natural springs and areas with riparian type vegetation. Drainage bottoms, creeks, springs, and cienegas, where water is available, are most susceptible to livestock concentrations.

The following range improvements were discussed and planned for this grazing season:

Improvements:

1. Repair H-braces, T-Posts, stays, tighten wire, and remove any fallen trees on fence # 7611 and 7611B located on the north end of 13 Mile Pasture.
2. Repair one trick tank in the House Pasture and one trick tank in the North Winter Pasture.
3. You indicated that you would like to clean an unnamed earthen tank in the McCauley Pasture (T21N R1W section 14). This was constructed for wildlife habitat improvement meaning you do not have maintenance responsibility for its upkeep. However, we do have a heritage clearance for it so you may proceed with cleaning it. All work must remain in the original confines of the tank.

9. **The Hat Allotment Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)** are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 3, Section 8. The AOI complies with the standards and guidelines found in the September 10, 2010 Hat Allotment Decision Memo for the Hat Allotment, the January 10, 2011 Hat Allotment Management Plan and in the Kaibab National Forest Plan. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act on-going grazing consultation for the Hat Allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.